

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON:DTM

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S/S -MR. JOHNSTONE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 123735 TOSEC 020059

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LA, US

SUBJECT: LAOS SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1300 EDT 18 MAY 1975

1. AMERICANS IN LAOS: THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS REMAINING IN LAOS NOW STANDS AT 182 (THIS INCLUDES A SMALL NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS WHO ARE TO LEAVE SHORTLY). EMBASSY VIENTIANE REPORTS 111 NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS NOW IN LAOS, MANY OF THEM NEWSMEN WHO HAVE COME TO COVER RECENT EVENTS. MORE OFFICIALS ARE BOOKED FOR DEPARTURE TOMORROW ON CHARTER AND REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS. A TRAVEL ADVISORY SENT YESTERDAY REQUIRED ALL POSTS TO URGE AMCITS NOT TO TRAVEL TO LAOS AT THIS TIME.

2. SITUATION IN VIENTIANE: CHARG? CHAPMAN REENTERED USAID COMPOUND AT 1:00 P.M. (VIENTIANE TIME) TODAY. AFTER INSPECTION TOUR AND RELIEF OF THREE EMPLOYEES WHO HAD REMAINED INSIDE FOR THE DURATION (AND WHO EMERGED IN GOOD SHAPE), AMERICAN AND LAO EMPLOYEES WENT BACK TO WORK. LOCAL EMPLOYEES WERE PAID PAST DUE SALARIES. DAMAGE TO THE COMPOUND WAS LESS THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED. CHAPMAN REPORTS TENSION IN THE CITY HAS EASED SOMEWHAT.

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THE USAID HOUSING AREA HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETELY EVACUATED.
THE JOINT POLICE FORCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING THE

HOUSES BUT THEFTS CONTINUE.

THE MISSION GUARD FORCE (TAPS) WERE PAID OFF AFTER A
GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF THEIR COMPLAINTS. SOME GUARDS ARE
EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WORK, ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. INGERSOLL

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